

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, RO

SUBJECT: SPATARU-DIACONESCU VISIT: ANTI-TERRORIST ASPECTS

REFERENCES: A) BUCHAREST 062; B) BUCHAREST 469;

C) STATE 022873.

1. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES ANTI-TERRORIST ASPECTS OF THE SPATARU-DIACONESCU VISIT. APPOINTMENTS WERE ARRANGED FOR THEM WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR AIRPORT AND AIR PASSENGER SECURITY; A HALF-DAY TOUR OF THE SECURITY FACILITIES AT NATIONAL AIRPORT HOSTED BY THE FAA'S AIRPORT CHIEF OF SECURITY WAS ARRANGED; AND A DAY OF DISCUSSION WAS ORGANIZED WITH OFFICIALS OF THE SECRET SERVICE, INCLUDING A DEMONSTRATION OF EQUIPMENT IN USE AT THE WHITE HOUSE TO SCREEN MAIL AND PACKAGES AND A MEETING WITH THE SECRET SERVICE'S CHIEF OF TECHNICAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENT.

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2. DURING THESE MEETINGS THE ROMANIANS IDENTIFIED CERTAIN ITEMS OF COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT OF INTEREST TO THEM AND AT THEIR REQUEST WERE GIVEN TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS AND THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF SUPPLIERS AND MANUFACTURERS. TEST MODELS OF SEVERAL ITEMS WERE OBTAINED.

3. ON FEBRUARY 2 PROFESSOR SPATARU AND GENERAL DIACONESCU MET WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE FOR AN OVERVIEW OF THEIR VISIT. THEY EXPRESSED COMPLETE SATISFACTION AT THE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED TO OBSERVE ANTI-TERRORIST PROGRAMS IN EFFECT IN THE US. MR. ARMITAGE NOTED CERTAIN UNSETTLING RECENT INDICATIONS OF POSSIBLE COLLABORATION BETWEEN VARIOUS DISPARATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST GROUPS, EVIDENCED DURING THE RECENT VIENNA OPEC TRAGEDY. THE UNITED STATES IS READY TO COLLABORATE IN EXCHANGING INFORMATION ON ANTI-TERRORISM MATTERS WITH ROMANIA WHICH MIGHT HELP COMBAT THIS INTERNATIONAL MENACE, MR. ARMITAGE STATED. AMBASSADOR BOGDAN AGREED THAT SUCH COLLABORATION WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, GEN. DIACONESCU SAID THAT INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED OF TERRORIST THREATS INVOLVING ROMANIAN TERRITORY, BUT "WITH THE COOPERATION OF INTERPOL" NO TERRORIST INCIDENTS HAVE YET OCCURRED IN HIS COUNTRY. MR. ARMITAGE MENTIONED RECENT THREATS OF BOYCOTT ACTIVITY IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AGAINST TAROM, AND ASKED WHETHER THIS CAUSES CONCERN ABOUT TAROM SECURITY. GEN. DIACONESCU REPLIED YES. "SO FAR GOR DETERRENT MEASURES HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE," AMBASSADOR BOGDAN NOTED, "BUT WE FEEL TAROM IS ON THEIR LIST."

5. MR. ARMITAGE ASKED WHETHER A ROMANIAN SECURITY UNIT WITH SPECIAL ANTI-TERRORIST RESPONSIBILITIES EXISTS. GEN. DIACONESCU CONFIRMED THIS; THAT THIS UNIT IS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH ALL OTHER SECURITY ELEMENTS INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT'S SECURITY FORCES, BUT IS NOT IDENTICAL WITH THEM; AND THAT HE PERSONALLY HAS NO POLICY, INTELLIGENCE OR OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE ROMANIAN ANTI-

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TERRORIST EFFORT, BEING HOWEVER IN CHARGE OF CERTAIN TECHNICAL MATTERS.

6. MR. ARMITAGE CLOSED BY REITERATING THE US INTEREST IN EXCHANGING INFORMATION ON ANTI-TERRORISM MATTERS. THE ROMANIANS AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY.

7. WE WILL REMIND BOGDAN OF OUR CONTINUING INTEREST IN

THIS AND MENTION TO HIM THAT EMBASSY BUCHAREST WILL ALSO BE RAISING THIS POSSIBILITY. SUGGEST WHEN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES NEXT SEE SPATARU/DIACONESCU, ARMITAGE'S REMARKS BE RECALLED AND THEY BE ASKED TO IDENTIFY AN APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL WITH POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES WITH WHOM CONTACT COULD BE ESTABLISHED.

8. SEPTEL DISCUSSES COMMUNICATIONS-RELATED ASPECTS OF THE VISIT. INGERSOLL

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